

Medieval Society

Mr. Jenkins
Lesson Plan

Objectives:

After completing this lesson, student will be able to:

- Outline main features of Germanic society
- Describe how the church provided unity in Europe after the decline of Roman authority
- Explain how the Franks helped reunify Europe
- Identify main causes of the decline of Charlemagne's empire

OPENING:

Clarify the role of the Germanic people in their new territories, and discuss the main features of Germanic society.

- Students in small groups study the map on page 150.
- Develop a group interpretation of what is meant by the map's territory labels, such as Visigoths and Franks
- Be reminded that most of the population in the German-ruled areas was non-German

Questions:

1. How do we reconcile the map's tribal labels with the statement that most people in these areas were not German?

[Redacted]

2. In what ways were the Germanic groups alike?

[Redacted]

3. How did the Germans' warlike culture help shape their methods of government?

[Redacted]

DEVELOP:

Discuss how the church helped unify the Germanic kingdoms into Latin Christendom.

- Remind students that the Catholic Church was the most important social institution to survive the collapse of the Roman state.
- On chalkboard write: *Main Survival Skills (Qualities) of Church*
 - Have students list the skills of the medieval church.



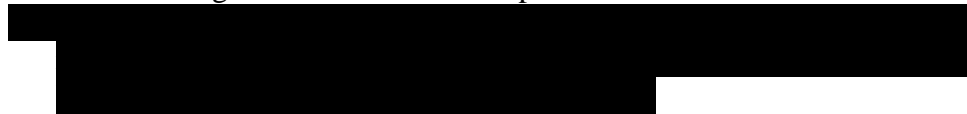
PROBE:

Trace the rise and later disintegration of Frankish empires from 400 to 1000 AD.

Point out that as the Franks rose to power under Clovis, the church and the Franks formed a mutually beneficial relationship.

Question:

1. What did each side get from this relationship?



Trace Frankish rule from the reign of Clovis and the Merovingians to the rise of Carolingian power under Charlemagne.

Have students view the map of Charlemagne's empire and see that it covered most of western Europe.

Question:

1. Why was the crowning of Charlemagne by Pope Leo III on Christmas Day in the year of 800 seen as such a significant event in Europe's history?



Discuss the main causes of the decline of Charlemagne's empire.

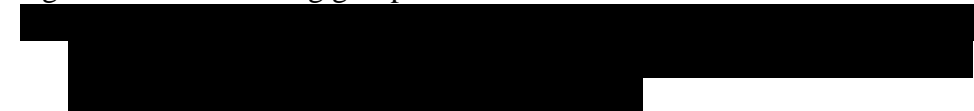
Point out that Charlemagne's empire, though vast, did not last long after his death.

Question:

1. What two main things helped bring about this decline?



2. Have students study the map of Viking, Magyar, and Muslim invasions and trace the origins of these invading groups



CONCLUSION:

Examine ordinary peasant life on a typical manor of Charlemagne's era.

